## **U.S. Department of Justice**



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CONTACT: 214/659-8707 www.usdoj.gov/usao/txn DALLAS, TEXAS JULY 15, 2005

## Thirteen Arrests Made in North Fort Worth Neighborhood as Part of Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative

United States Attorney Richard B. Roper announced today that thirteen arrests were made late yesterday in a north Forth Worth, Texas neighborhood as part of the Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative. Eight of those arrested face federal charges and made their initial appearance in federal court in Fort Worth this afternoon before the Honorable Charles Bleil, United States Magistrate Judge. All are being held in federal custody and are set for detention hearing on July 19, 2005.

The following seven defendants, named in two federal indictments, were arrested:

Lester Lee Polty Billy Joe Finney Santalian Wilson Brandon Moore Albert Owens, Jr. Torey Hill Glenn Edward Powe

The defendants are charged with conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute and to distribute more than 50 grams of crack cocaine and distribution of crack cocaine. The federal indictments remain sealed as to those remaining defendants that have not yet been arrested.

Another individual, Sheena Bivens, was also arrested last night on federal charges outlined in a criminal complaint that charges her with unlawfully possessing a firearm during and in relation to a drug trafficking crime.

Between September 17, 2004 and January 31, 2005, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and the Fort Worth Police Department worked jointly on a crack distribution conspiracy investigation which was concentrated in the northern area of Fort Worth, specifically the 3000 block of Roosevelt Avenue and the 3100 block of Ross Avenue. Law enforcement knew these areas as 24-hour-per-day "open air" crack sales operations and analysis by law enforcement showed that this area had the highest level of violent criminal activity within the Fort Worth metroplex.

U.S. Attorney Roper stated, "Project Safe Neighborhoods is a tremendous opportunity for the combined forces of federal, state and local partners to turn neighborhoods back over to law-abiding citizens. This office, working side by side with federal, state, and local law enforcement, has created a unique PSN strategy tailored to fit the gun, drug and gang problems in the area."

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney J. Michael Worley.

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